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PATENT
Amended
11/3/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of

John E. Mercer

Serial No: 09/898,989

Filed: July 3, 2001

For: BORING TOOL CONTROL USING REMOTE
LOCATOR

Examiner: Sunil Singh

Art Unit: 3673

Attorney Docket: DCI-15C2

Date: December 18, 2002

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on December 18, 2002.

Signed:

Jay R Beyer

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

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GROUP 3600

The following amendments and remarks are intended as a full and complete response to the outstanding Office Action dated (mailed) October 2, 2002.

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In the Claims

Please cancel Claims 39, 40, 53, 54, 67, 68, 81, 82, 95 and 96.

A clean copy of the claims, as amended, has been provided immediately hereinafter for entry in the case. Marked up versions of the amended claims are provided in Supplement A, attached hereto.

41. (once amended) In a drilling system for performing underground boring including a drill rig and a boring tool which is configured for moving through the ground under control of the drill rig to form an underground bore, a monitoring arrangement comprising:

a detection arrangement at said drill rig for monitoring at least one operational parameter to produce a data signal relating to at least one of a utility to be installed in the underground bore, the drill rig and the boring tool;

a portable device configured for receiving the data signal relating to the operational parameter for use by the portable device and said portable device includes a display arrangement configured for using the data signal for display to an operator of the portable device; and

a communication arrangement for transferring the data signal from the drill rig to the portable device.

42. (once amended) In a drilling system for performing underground boring including a drill rig and a boring tool which is configured for moving through the ground under control of the drill rig to form an underground bore said boring tool including a locating signal transmitter which transmits a locating signal for locating an underground position of the boring tool, a monitoring arrangement comprising:

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